GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:647
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
SUB-STANDARD FOODGRAINS AND SUGAR DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PDS
RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that substandard quality of foodgrains and sugarare distributed under the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the number of such cases, which have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the officers found gulty and punished during the above period, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b)&(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b)&(c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.647 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 1
2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b)&(c): Foodgrains of fair average quality conforming to the Prevention of FoodAdulteration Act (PFA) standards are distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Sugar distributed under the PDS conforms to the Indian Sugar Standards (ISS).

Some complaints about the quality of foodgrains supplied under the PDS were received during the last two years.

During 2000-01, complaints were received from the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Sikkim and Tripura regarding the supply of fodgrains of poor quality , especially rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS).Keeping in view the reluctance of consumers, the supply of URS rice of 1997-98 Kharif Marketing Season was stopped.

During 2001-2002, the Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi complained about the supply of lustre lost wheat while the Governments of Goa and Kerala complained about the poor quality of rice stocks. It was explained to the State Governments that, except in appearance, lustre lost wheat is as good as sound wheat, especiallyin terms of nutritional value. The FCI officers were instructed to ensure that rice of good quality only was supplied under the PDS to Goa & Kerala.

The State Governments are free to inspect the stocks of foodgrains and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots.The State Governments have alsobeen advised to depute an officer not below the rank of Inspector to check the quality of stocks.

No complaint was received from any State Government during the last two years about the supply of substandard sugar under the PDS.

In view of the position explained above, there was no occasion to take action against any official.